Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
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EPA officials,

I am writing in response to the decision to issue two draft permits and an aquifer exemption permit to Powertech Inc./Azarga Uranium for the Dewey-Burdock in-situ uranium mine site near Edgemont, South Dakota. After reviewing multiple sources on the issue, I urge you to withdraw permits given to Azarga Uranium for in-situ uranium mining at the Dewey-Burdock site. Reasons for my stance on the issue include the financial background of Powertech Inc./Azarga Uranium and the injection of waste water into the Minnelusa Formation.

Powertech Inc. may not have the financial backing to build a mining operation. As of April 7, 2017, the current share price for Powertech Inc. is $0.35 (Azarga Uranium, 2017) and Powertech Inc. representatives have admitted they will need more financial support going forward (O'Sullivan, 2013). Additionally, Powertech's economic assessment assumes a contract uranium (U_3O_8) price of $65 per pound. However, the current spot price of uranium (U_3O_8) is $23.50 (Azarga Uranium, 2017). Also, mining companies are required to restore disturbed areas, but if Powertech is unable to pay for restoration efforts, then the state would be stuck with the bill.

The Minnelusa Formation is a water producing unit in the Black Hills area and according to Rahn (2014) is hydrologically connected to the underlying Pahasapa Formation (or Madison aquifer) in some areas. If connection between the Minnelusa and Madison exists in the Dewey-Burdock uranium mining area, then there is a possibility for groundwater contamination in the Madison aquifer. A technical report available on the Azarga Uranium website (Graves et al., 2015) includes no information on possible connection between the Minnelusa and Madison aquifers. Additionally, hypothetical scenarios of groundwater contamination in the Minnelusa Formation were not considered in the report. However, without pertinent data on groundwater flow directions, Powertech Inc. representatives have stated that contaminants in the Minnelusa or Madison aquifer would not flow toward populated areas (O'Sullivan, 2013). Without proper research to support their claims, it would not be advisable to go forward with the Dewey-Burdock project.

Thanks,

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References Cited

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Rahn, P.H., 2014, Permeability of the Inyan Kara Group in the Black hills Area and its Relevance to a Proposed In-Situ Leach Uranium Mine, South Dakota Academy of Science, v. 93, p. 15-32.